

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sarah Frost
Office: 520.874.3521
Mobile: 520.425.7594
Email: sfrost@uph.org

**University Physicians Hospital Residents
Return from Program in Honduras**

TUCSON, Ariz. (February 9, 2010) –Medical residents from UPH Hospital have returned from the new immersion program offered by the ophthalmology residency program.

The two-week program located in Pedro, San Sula, Honduras allows residents to treat rural and under-served Honduran patients as well as distribute free eyeglasses and medicine. The program is conducted in partnership with Salud Juntos, a nonprofit organization of volunteers who develop community programs and donate their professional skills.

UPH Hospital residents Leslie Garay, MD, a third year resident, and Carmen Felix-Tacoronte, a second year resident, participated this year. Each brought 35 pounds of donated medication and eyeglasses in their personal luggage and treated 242 patients. The Tucson Lions Club Eyeglass Recycling Program donated used eyeglasses. Each pair of recycled glasses was cleaned and classified by prescription. New eyeglasses were purchased to match the specific needs of Honduran patients.

“We are so fortunate to be able to share our skills with those who need it,” said ophthalmology program director Joseph M. Miller, MD, MPH. “When we created the ophthalmology residency program at UPH Hospital, care for rural and underserved patients was given a top priority.”

The ophthalmology residency program also offers a two-week immersion program in Nogales, Mexico for first-year residents.

The University of Arizona College of Medicine and UPH Hospital Graduate Medical Education Consortium now offer four residency programs at UPH Hospital. A total of seven residency programs are being created at UPH Hospital. By 2011-2012, approximately 100 residents are expected to be participating in the programs.

UPH is a nonprofit corporation created in 1985 as the medical practice of the physicians of the UA College of Medicine. Together, UPH, The University of Arizona, UPH Hospital and University Medical Center combine to care for patients, educate medical students, train young physicians and conduct clinical research. With over 400 physicians and 2000 staff, UPH is Arizona’s largest physicians group.

###